

TENNESSEE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Policy Statement: Continuing Competence

A Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant in Tennessee are required to demonstrate continuing competence by obtaining a minimum number of continuing competence credits in the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month. For Physical Therapists, thirty (30) hours are required for the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month. For Physical Therapist Assistants, twenty (20) hours are required for the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month. (Please refer to the Board's rule Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs 1150-1-.12 for complete information regarding the continuing education requirements.)

Should the Tennessee licensed Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant fail to comply with the continuing competence requirement for the twenty-four (24) month period preceding the licensure renewal year, the following shall occur:

If a Physical Therapist has at least eight (8) or Physical Therapist Assistant has at least five (5) of the required continuing competence hours:

1. The licensee must pay a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per hour he/she is lacking. Payment must be rendered within thirty (30) days of notification from the Board.
2. The licensee must make up the amount of continuing competence credit hours that he/she is lacking. The deficient hours must be submitted with documented proof within sixty (60) days of notification from the Board.

If a Physical Therapist has less than eight (8) or Physical Therapist Assistant has less than five (5) of the required continuing competence hours:

1. The licensee must pay a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per hour he/she is lacking. Payment must be rendered within thirty (30) days of notification from the Board.
2. The licensee must make up the amount of continuing competence credit hours that he/she is lacking. The deficient hours must be submitted with documented proof within sixty (60) days of notification from the Board.
3. The license of the Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant will be suspended for a period of not less than forty-five (45) days and will continue to be suspended until licensee submits documented proof of all continuing competence credit hours he/she is lacking.

Failure to comply with the continuing competence requirement may result in disciplinary action. Failure to respond to a board request for documentation or to make up deficient continuing competence credit hours after notification by the board may result in disciplinary action. Licensees found to be in noncompliance with continuing competence requirements will be subject to a subsequent audit and cannot use continuing credit hours submitted for past deficient hours for current continuing competence compliance.

The Board of Physical Therapy adopted this revised policy on March 10, 2016.